

**HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS:
What risks are there?**

Allergy	to the animals to bedding, nesting material and food to chemicals used in the facility or in the experiment (irritation or allergy) to latex gloves
Physical injury	bites, kicks, scratches, cuts heavy lifts (feed and bedding sacks, chemical containers, cages) while operating machinery (autoclaves, washing machines, instruments)
Psychological trauma	when animals become ill during some operations and methods of killing when talking with friends/family
Infection / zoonoses	from the feed, water, bedding, ventilation plant, instruments from the animals from pests from pets experimental infection
Chemical hazards	the facility's own chemicals (disinfectants, detergents, anaesthesia gases) chemicals used in the experiment
Radiation	radioactive isotopes X-ray machines

Common factor for many of these:
• they are invisible

**HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS:
Who is at risk?**

Researchers
Animal technicians
The laboratory animals
The competent person
Office staff
Craftsmen electricians
 plumbers
 carpenters
 those carrying out repairs
 those delivering supplies or installing new equipment
Sales representatives
Cleaning personnel
Refuse disposal personnel
Security personnel
Visitors schoolchildren
 journalists
 inspectors

+ families, friends and work colleagues of all of these...

Common factor for many of these:

- they are in the facility after normal working hours
- they have little knowledge of, or fear of potential health risks
- they are women and men in their most fertile period

CONCLUSION:

- Discuss risks - in advance
- Be realistic about the facility's level of competence
- Write SOP's that cover the most important Health & Safety issues
- Confess accidents
- Limit the damage and clean up after you